

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, September 20. 1709.

I Have hitherto examin'd the Affairs of the *North* but on one Side. The Mis-carriages of the King of *Sweden* has open'd every One's Mouth against him, in a Time of Distress every Tongue is let loose, and Men never want Reproach to bear them Company in their Adversity, whether they be Kings, Emperors, Princes, or private Persons.

For my part, if I attack'd the Ambition and Exorbitance of the *Swede*, if I blam'd his unbounded Resentment, his Neglect of the Protestant Cause, his inexorable Cruelty; it was in the Height of his Glory, when he struck Terror into *Europe*, and when a Man might be looking about to see, whether any Power could protect him or

no; when he commanded Princes to send their great Men bound as it were Hand and Foot, to beg his Mercy; when the Complaints of his Envoy at the least Disrespect were enough to make a Man think of Count *Zobor*, or General *Paskul*—Then it was, Gentlemen, that this Paper spoke Truth with Freedom, and its Author scorn'd to restrain his just Remarks for Fear of the Conqueror's Resentment—And indeed he that will be known to speak Truth impartially, must do it in the Face of Danger. Hitherto no Danger, no Tyrant, no Conqueror has been able to awe my Pen; and while Truth dictates, and GOD supports me with Courage to defend or suffer for it, I hope never shall.

But

But I am now come to the other Part of this Work; As the Power of the King of *Sweden* never restrain'd me from censuring his Exorbitance; so neither shall his Misfortunes make forget the Concern, the Interest of *Europe*, or of the Protestant Religion, has in his future Preservation, whether I speak of his Person or of his Capacity, as King of *Sweden*.

For this Reason give me leave to say, if any of the Princes of the *North* taking Advantage of the present Disasters of the King of *Sweden*, shall basely fall upon his Dominions, and attempt to dismember *Sweden* from the rest of the Kingdoms of *Europe*, as a State or as a Crown; if they shall assist the Czar of *Muscovy* to conquer *Sweden*, or indeed any Part of it—— Give me leave to say, so far they undermine the general Peace of *Europe*, destroy the Liberties of *Germany*, weaken the Protestant Interest, and expose even themselves as well as their Neighbours to unaccountable Dangers—— And they will make it indispensibly necessary to these Parts of *Europe*, to concern themselves in the Defence of *Sweden*, to preserve the general Ballance of the *North*, and re-establish the great Treaty of *Munster*, which was purchas'd by the Blood and Treasure of the *Swedish* Nation, and on the Foot of which the Liberties of the Protestant Princes of *Germany* are to this Day establish'd.

To make this out, therefore give me leave to look a little back into the State of Religion in *Germany*, at the Time when the *Swedes* were first concern'd in the Defence of it—— And then to examine the Ballance of Power between the Protestant and Popish Princes and States of *Europe*, as it stood at the Beginning of the late War here; and from these some Judgments may be made of the real Interest and Concern, all the Protestants of *Europe* have in the Preservation of *Sweden* at this time. I shall be able to do this but in a summary Manner at present, being at the Writing of this in the *North* of *North-Britain*, and remote from the Help of Books or Assistance of others, whose Memory might be better furnish'd than my own.

It was about the Year 1627, as I remember, when the Protestants in *Germany*, having been reduc'd to the utmost Extremity by the Power of the Emperor, were at the Brink of giving up All to the Arbitrary Treatment of their Popish Enemies, all their most powerful Attempts to recover their Liberties, were baffled by the superior Arms of *Ferdinand* the second Emperor of *Germany*. The King of *Bohemia*, the Father of the present Princess *Sophia*, Dutchess Dowager of *Hannover*, had been overthrown at the great Battle of *Prague*. The King of *Denmark*, at the Head of the united Forces of the *Lower Saxony*, had been beaten at another bloody Battle, (I forget the Place) and was oblig'd to make his Peace, and abandon the Protestant Cause—— The Conclusions at *Leipsick* (so they call'd a League form'd by the Duke of *Saxony*, the Landgrave of *Hesse*, and all the petty Princes on that side) had provok'd the Emperor to the highest Degree, and the Victorious *TILLY* had forc'd several of the Members to renounce it for Fear of his Military Executions, and buy their Peace at the Loss of most of their Civil and Religious Liberties. *Tilly* had sack'd the Imperial City of *Magdeburgh* in a dreadful Manner, laying the whole City in Ashes, and massacring 17000 People, Men, Women, and Children, without Distinction or Respect to Age or Sex. He had from thence broken into *Hessia*, and forc'd the Princes of *Wirtemberg*, the Landgrave of *Hesse*, the Princes of *Darmstar*, and the Imperial Cities on the *Rhine*, to renounce the Conclusions of *Leipsick*; and he was now advancing into *Saxony*, where he threatned the Elector with Fire and Sword, and swore he would make the City of *Leipsick* another *Magdeburgh*; the *Upper* and *Lower Palatinate* were over-run by the Duke of *Bavaria*, and there was not one Prince left entire, but the Duke of *Brandenburgh*, who was oblig'd to buy his Peace with low Submissions to the Emperor.

In the Middle of this Distress, when the *German* Liberty was at its last Gasp, the two oppressed Dukes of *Mecklenburgh* having before solicited the Court of *Sweden* for

for Relief, the Storm began in a Cloud, like a Man's Hand, to rise in the North, Religion stretch'd forth her Hands to the brave *Gustavus Adolphus*, and he obedient to her first Summons, landed at *Stralsund*, and the Isle of *Rügen*, with no more than 12000 Men — Here he immediately fell to work with the Imperialists, and beat them out of all the Coast of *Pomerania*, and the Dutchies of *Mecklenburgh*, took *Stettin*, settled the Government on that side in less than seven Weeks, and receiving pressing Invitations from the Princes of the League in *Germany*, he advances into *Brandenburgh*.

He had demanded of the Elector of *Brandenburgh* the strong Fortress of *Custrin* upon the *Oder*, as a Pass for Security of his Convoys and Reinforcements, and to preserve his Communication, upon Promise of restoring it again, if they did not agree on other Points; and being now upon his Advance into *Germany*, the *Brandenburgher* made mighty Difficulties, seem'd uneasy at the *Swedes*, and demanded again his Fort of *Custrin*.

So hardly will Men use their Benefactors and Deliverers, till they are effectually deliver'd from the Awe of their Oppressors — The generous *Swede*, not to be charg'd with a Breach of Promise, frankly gives him up that strong Post — But to let him know he was sensible of his Trifling, marches directly for *Berlin*, and sits down before the Capital City of his Friend, resolv'd to make him declare himself for or against him.

The *Saxon* Duke at the same time wavering and unstable, when the *Swedes* began to approach, began to fall off, and the King of *Sweden* was once at the Point of leaving them both, and marching down the *Havel* into the *Lower Saxony*; but Count *Tilly* the Imperial General remov'd all these Difficulties, and advancing with his victorious Army into *Saxony*, the Duke made no more Difficulty to join with the

Swedes, and he, that before was fortifying *Torgan* against him, and doubtful, whether he should receive the *Swede*, now flies into his Arms, and going in Person to the King of *Sweden*, beseeches him to come with all his Forces to his Assistance.

The King of *Sweden*, tho' a little resenting their Usage, considering how far he had come to their Deliverance, yet frankly joins with them with all his Forces, and passing the *Elbe* at *Torgan*, and there meeting the Duke of *Saxony's* Army, they advance to the Plains of *Leipsick*, where Count *Tilly* fairly met them, and where was fought the bloodiest and most terrible Battle, that those Ages of the World ever saw; in which, tho' *Tilly* was superior by 3000 Men, his Army being 44000 Men, and the *Swedes* and *Saxons* but 41000, tho' *Tilly's* Army was all old Soldiers flush'd with constant Victories, had tasted Blood at the Sack of *Magdeburg*, and were in the Opinion of the World invincible. Nay, tho' at the first Onset, the *Saxon* Army, who were new-raisd Men, was all but 8 Regiments entirely beaten, and pursu'd quite out of the Field by the Imperialists — yet the King of *Sweden* wrung the Victory out of the Hands of the Imperialists, and by meer Valour and downright Fighting, for the old Regiments of *Tilly's* Army fought like Lions to the last, and refus'd Quarter, beat them out of the Field in such a Manner, that scarce two Regiments of all that Army went off together.

In this Battle the King of *Sweden* laid the Foundation of the *German* Liberty, and I doubt not to give you good Reasons to prove, the same Liberty may stand in need of the same Protectors, and that therefore we ought not to let the *Swedes* be crush'd at this Juncture, whatever the Misfortunes and Mismanagement of their Monarch may have expos'd them to.